



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/044,846 Confirmation No.: 7917  
Applicant : Claude Couture  
Filed: November 9, 2001  
Group Art Unit : 1711  
Examiner: TRAN, Thao T.  
Title : CROSSLINKED POLYSACCHARIDE, OBTAINED BY CROSSLINKING WITH SUBSTITUTED POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL, AS SUPERABSORBENT  
Attorney Docket : CLW 2 0148  
ES/769/13370.8

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop – Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609, applicants submit the following Disclosure Statement concerning art of which the applicants are aware. A copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein or submitted herewith is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

Certificate of First Class Mailing

I hereby certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and PTO 1449 form are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an enveloped addressed to: Mail Stop, Commissioner for Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Cathryn Terchek

Date:

  
March 19 2004

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In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2), no information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b) exists.

Under § 1.98(a)(3), no concise explanation of relevance is required for information that is in the English language. Accordingly, the cited patents require no further explanation (or no translation is available).

Under § 1.97(c)(2), this information shall be considered if filed before the mailing date of a final action if accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by §1.17(p). Accordingly, the necessary fee accompanies this Information Disclosure Statement. Any overpayment or deficiency can be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

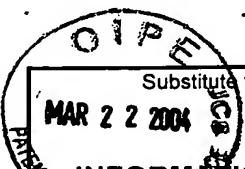
It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and officially cited in examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,  
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

Date: March 12, 2004

  
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT(S)**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**COMPLETE IF KNOWN**

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| Application Number   | 10/044,846                         |
| Filing Date          | November 9, 2001                   |
| First Named Inventor | Claude Couture                     |
| Art Unit             | 1711                               |
| Examiner Name        | TRAN, Thao T.                      |
| Sheet 1 of 1         | Attorney Docket No.<br>CLW 2 00148 |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. | Document No.<br>Number-Kind Code (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|--------------------|----------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
|                    | AA       | US-   |                                |  |   |
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. | Foreign Patent Document                  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | T |
|--------------------|----------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
|                    |          | Country Code-Number Kind Code (if known) |                                |  |   |   |
| AM                 |          | EP 1 134 232 A1                          | 09/19/2001                     | SCA Hygiene Products AB                            |   |   |
| AN                 |          |  |                                |  |   |   |
| AO                 |          |  |                                |  |   |   |
| AP                 |          |  |                                |  |   |   |

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

|                    |          |  |   |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item<br>(book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s),<br>publisher, city and/or country where published | T |
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|                    | AV       |  |   |

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered